(b) The Tripartite Committee has identified the following three thrust areas for immediate action.

(i) Payment of legal dues and other reliefs to workers who have lost their jobs;

(ii) Reducing the risk of further closures of mills and reopening of units which can be made viable;

(iii) Creating alternative sources of employment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Even before this report, the Government have taken a number of measures to curb the smuggling of foreign goods. For instance, the anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified and anti-smuggling machinery particularly at the vulnerable points of the land border, the coastline and international airports and sea ports has been geared up to combat smuggling of goods including synthetic yarn and fabrics, etc.

Reduction of excise duty on PFY and PSF

2370. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat State Committee on textile crisis has recommended for the reduction of excise duties imposed on PFY and PSF so as to make effective assault on smuggling;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as an alternative to reduction of excise duties, the Committee has recommended subsidising the sale of man-made fabrics; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A Committee appointed by the Government of Gujarat on Textile Industry has recommended that the excise duty on Polyester Staple Fibre and Polyester Filament Yarn may be further reduced by 50 per cent. The Committee has also recommended that "the feasibility of giving subsidy on the sale of cloth should also be examined as an alternative to reduction in excise duty".

(c) The recomendations have not been found acceptable.

Closure of textile mills

2371. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of closed textile mills at present, state-wise;

(b) what are the dates of closure of each mill and the number of workers affected thereby;

(c) what is the number of man days lost and also loss in production in each mill so far;

(d) how many mills were taken over by Government during the last three years, indicating the names of these mills and also the States in which they are located;

(e) whether Government propose to form a Textile Finance Corporation if it is unable to take over all the closed mills; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the negative, what other steps Government propose to take to save the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) A statement is attached. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 104.]

(c) Government do not maintain the figures for man days lost and loss of production due to the closure of individual textile mills.

(d) No textile mill has been taken over by the Union Government in the last three years.

(e) and (m) There is no such proposal under consideration at present. Government have constituted a Nodal Agency